CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A solid oral dosage form comprising a drug and an enhancer, wherein the enhancer is a salt of a medium chain fatty acid which has a carbon chain length of from 6 to 20 carbon atoms.

2. The solid oral dosage form of claim 1, wherein the salt of a medium chain fatty acid is solid at room temperature.

3. The solid oral dosage form of claim 1, wherein the carbon chain length is from 8 to 14 carbon atoms.

4. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 2, wherein the enhancer is a sodium salt of a medium chain fatty acid.

5. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 4, wherein the enhancer is selected from the group consisting of sodium caprylate, sodium caprate and sodium laurate.

6. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the drug is a polysaccharide, an oligosaccharide, a protein or a peptide.

7. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 6, wherein the polysaccharide is low molecular weight heparin.

8. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 6, wherein the peptide is luteinising hormone –releasing hormone analog.

9. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 1, wherein the drug is selected from the group consisting of TRH, unfractionated heparin, insulin, luteinising hormone-

releasing hormone (LHRH), leuprolide, goserelin, genotropin, nafarelin, buserelin, alendronate, cyclosporine, calcitonin, vasopressin, desmopressin and salts thereof.

10. The solid oral dosage form of claim 1, wherein the drug and the enhancer are present in a ratio of from 1:100000 to 10:1 (drug : enhancer).

11. The solid oral dosage form of claim 1, wherein the dosage form is a tablet, a capsule or a multiparticulate dosage form.

12. The solid oral dosage form of claim 11, wherein the dosage form is a controlled release dosage form.

13. The solid oral dosage form of claim 11, wherein the tablet further comprises a rate controlling polymer material.

14. The solid oral dosage form of claim 13, wherein the rate-controlling polymer is HPMC.

15. The solid oral dosage form of claim 13, wherein the rate-controlling polymer is a polymer derived from acrylic or methacrylic acid and their respective esters or copolymers derived from acrylic or methacrylic acid and their respective esters.

16. The solid oral dosage form of claim 13, wherein the drug and enhancer and at least one auxiliary excipient are compressed into tablet form prior to coating with a rate controlling polymer.

17. The solid oral dosage form of claim 12, wherein the drug and enhancer and at least one auxiliary excipient are compressed into tablet form prior to coating with a delayed release polymer.

18. The solid oral dosage form of claim 12, wherein the drug, the enhancer, the rate controlling polymer and at least one auxiliary excipient are compressed to form a controlled release matrix tablet.

19. The solid oral dosage form of claim 18, wherein the controlled release matrix is coated with a rate-controlling polymer.

20. The solid oral dosage form of claim 18, wherein the controlled release matrix is coated with a delayed release polymer.

21. The solid oral dosage form of claim 13, wherein the drug, the enhancer and at least one auxiliary excipient are compressed into the form of a multilayer tablet prior to coating with a rate controlling-polymer.

22. The solid oral dosage form of claim 12, wherein the drug, the enhancer and at least one auxiliary excipient are compressed into the form of a multilayer tablet prior to coating with a delayed release polymer

23. The solid oral dosage form of claim 13, wherein the drug and enhancer are dispersed in the rate-controlling polymer material and compressed into the form of a multilayer tablet.

24. The solid oral dosage form of claim 23, wherein the multilayer tablet is coated with a rate-controlling polymer.

25. The solid oral dosage form of claim 23, wherein the multilayer tablet is coated with a delayed release polymer.

26. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 13, wherein the drug, the enhancer, at least one auxiliary excipient, and the rate-controlling polymer material are combined into a multiparticulate form.

27. The dosage form according to claim 26, wherein the multiparticulate form comprises discrete particles, pellets, minitablets, or combinations thereof.

28. A solid oral dosage form according to claim 27 comprising a blend of two or more populations of particles, pellets or mini-tablets having different *in vitro* or *in vivo* release characteristics.

29. The dosage form according to claim 26, wherein the multiparticulate is encapsulated in hard or soft gelatin capsules.

30. The dosage form according to claim 29, wherein the capsule is coated with a rate-controlling polymer.

31. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 29, wherein the capsule is coated with a delayed release polymer.

32. The dosage form according to claim 26, wherein the multiparticulate is incorporated into a sachet.

33. The dosage form according to claim 27, wherein the discrete particles or pellets are compressed into tablet form.

34. The dosage form according to claim 33, wherein the tablet form is coated with a rate controlling polymer material.

35. The dosage form according to claim 33 ,wherein the tablet form is coated with a delayed release polymer.

36. The dosage form according to claim 27, wherein the discrete particles or pellets are compressed into a multilayer tablet.

37. The dosage form according to claim 36 wherein the multilayer tablet is coated with a rate controlling material.

38. The dosage form according to claim 36 wherein the multilayer tablet is coated with a delayed release polymer.

39. A method of treatment of a medical condition comprising administering to a patient suffering from said condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a drug used in treating the condition together with an enhancer, wherein said drug and said enhancer are in the form of the solid oral dosage form of claim 1.

40. Use of a drug and an enhancer in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a medical condition treatable by said drug, wherein the drug and the enhancer are in the form of a solid oral dosage form according to any of claim 1.

41. A process for the manufacture of a solid oral dosage form comprising the steps of:

a) blending a drug with an enhancer, and optionally additional excipients, to form a blend; wherein the enhancer is a medium chain fatty acid or an ester, an ether, a salt or a derivative of a medium chain fatty acid which is solid at room temperature and has a carbon chain length of from 6 to 20 carbon atoms; with the provisos that (i) where the enhancer is an ester of a medium chain fatty acid, said chain length of from 6 to 20 carbon atoms relates to the chain length of the carboxylate moiety, and (ii) where the enhancer is an ether of a medium chain fatty acid, at least one alkoxy group has a carbon chain length of from 6 to 20 carbon atoms; and

b) forming a solid oral dosage form from the blend by

i) direct compression of the blend to form the solid oral dosage form, or

ii) granulating the blend to form a granulate for incorporation into the solid oral dosage form, or

iii) spray drying the blend to form a multiparticulate for incorporation into the solid oral dosage form.

42. The process according to claim 42 wherein the drug and the enhancer are blended in a ratio of from 1:100000 to 10:1 (drug: enhancer).

43. A solid oral dosage form comprising a drug and an enhancer, wherein the enhancer is an ester of a medium chain fatty acid which has a carbon chain length of from 6 to 20 carbon atoms; with the proviso that said chain length of from 6 to 20 carbon atoms relates to the chain length of the carboxylate moiety.

44. The solid oral dosage form of claim 44, wherein the ester of a medium chain fatty acid is solid at room temperature.

45. A solid oral dosage form comprising a drug and an enhancer, wherein the enhancer is an ether of a medium chain fatty acid which has a carbon chain length of from 6 to 20 carbon atoms; with the proviso at least one alkoxy group has a carbon chain length of from 6 to 20 carbon atoms.

46. The solid oral dosage form of claim 46, wherein the ether of a medium chain fatty acid is solid at room temperature.

47. A solid oral dosage form comprising a drug and an enhancer, wherein the enhancer is a derivative of a medium chain fatty acid which has a carbon chain length of from 6 to 20 carbon atoms.

48. The solid oral dosage form of claim 48, wherein the derivative of a medium chain fatty acid is solid at room temperature.

49. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 11, wherein the dosage form is a capsule.

50. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 50, wherein the capsule is coated with a rate controlling polymer.

51. The solid oral dosage form according to claim 50, wherein the capsule is coated with a delayed release polymer.

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